

Patent claims

1. Space-maintainer for inserting between two vertebral bodies with a sleeve-shaped first part (1) and a second part (2) guided therein and displaceable in the axial direction relative to the first part which are both (1, 2) connected to one another by a device which transforms a rotary movement acting from outside into a movement displacing the parts (1, 2) in their relative longitudinal position, wherein one of the parts has a toothed profile (22) extending parallel to the longitudinal axis of the parts and the other part has a toothed wheel (24) located in engagement with the toothed profile (22) for adjusting a total length.
2. Space-maintainer according to Claim 1, characterised by a rotary instrument (30), which can be brought into engagement with the toothed wheel (24) for changing the position of the toothed wheel and therefore the entire length.
3. Space-maintainer according to Claim 2, characterised in that the toothed wheel (24) is mounted in the first part.
4. Space-maintainer according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the second part (2) has on its outer wall facing the first part (1) a section (18), extending in the axial direction, with a grid structure consisting of a plurality of indentations arranged adjacent to one another in the axial direction, and a stopping part (27) cooperating with this grid structure is provided.